

[the] said ignition device [(4) being reacted] reacting in [the form of] a shower or a cloud of sparks, where at least parts of [the] said shower of sparks strike [the] said combustible gas [cloud (1)] region, [characterized in that the]

wherein said ignition device [(4)] is activated [somewhere] along its path in [the] said guidance tube [(6), possibly at the moment] either when [the] said ignition device [(4) leaves the] exits said guidance tube [(6)] or [possibly] when [the] said ignition device [(4)] starts [its course] through [the] said guidance tube [(6)].

2. (Amended) The [A] method [according to] as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said ignition device [(4)] is positioned within a trapping device [(20)] prior to reacting [the reaction of the ignition device (4)].

3. (Amended) The [A] method [according to] as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said [characterized in that the] ignition device [(4) may be] is propelled [at a moderate speed] through [the] said guidance tube [(6)], said ignition device [that it may optionally be] is capable of being stopped during its passage through [the] said guidance tube [(6)], and [that it] after exiting said guidance tube, said ignition device [may optionally be reversed] is capable of being turned around and returned [back into the] to said guidance tube [(6)] without reacting [a reaction taking place].

4. (Amended) An apparatus [to be used] for igniting combustible gases [(1), for example] from a flare [(2)] of a flare tower [(3),] by [means of] an ignition device [(4) which

is] brought toward a region in or near a cloud of gas [(1)], said apparatus comprising:

a guidance tube [(6) and] ;

c a supply of [a] ^{a low pressure medium} ~~medium pressure~~ [medium,];

[where the ignition device (4) is adapted for propulsion through the guidance tube (6) by means of the pressure medium for the purpose of bringing the ignition device (4) close to the cloud of gas (1) for reaction near or within the cloud of gas (1), said device further comprising]

a feeding unit [(7)];

a control device [(14)]; and

[, optionally,] a magazine [(8)] for [the] said ignition device [(4)], [characterized in that]

b b c ^{low pressure medium} ~~medium pressure~~ wherein said ignition device is propelled through said guidance tube by said medium pressure to place said ignition device close to said cloud of gas to react near or within said cloud of gas, and

wherein an ignition initiator [(13)] is mounted [somewhere] along [the] said guidance tube [(6)], said ignition initiator [(13)] activating [the] said ignition device [(4) which], said ignition device reacting, after a time delay, [undergoes a reaction] outside [the] said guidance tube, in or near [the] said cloud of gas [(1)].

5. (Amended) The [An] apparatus [according to] as claimed in claim 4, [characterized in that it comprises] said apparatus further comprising:

a trapping device [(20)] for [the] said ignition device [(4)], [which] said trapping

device [(20) is situated] disposed outside [the] said guidance tube[,] whereby [the] said ignition device [(4)] is positioned within [the] said trapping device [(20)] prior to reacting [the reaction of the ignition device (4)].

7/6. (Amended) An ignition device to be used with [the] an apparatus [according to] as claimed in claims [4 or 5] 4, 5, or 6, [characterized in that the] wherein said ignition device [is in] has the form of an ignition pellet [(4) which is] , said ignition pellet being electrically or mechanically activated, said ignition pellet being activated [activation occurring somewhere] along its path in [the] said guidance tube [(6), possibly at the moment] either when [the] said ignition pellet [(4) leaves the] exits said guidance tube [(6), possibly] or when [the] said ignition pellet [(4)] starts [its course] through [the] said tube [(6)], said ignition pellet [(4)] having a [built-in] predetermined delay prior to reacting [its reaction], [and] the time for [its] activation and delay being predetermined and adapted to the particular flare and application.

Please add new claim 7.

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--~~7~~ (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, said apparatus further comprising:
a magazine for storing ignition devices to be fed into said guidance tube.--

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. By this amendment, the specification has